

punctual attendants at a certain Sunday-school during each year? By a scholarship we, of course, mean it to apply to those children who desire to take a collegiate course in any of the arts, or with a view to a ministerial or missionary career. This is a crude idea, and, of course, subject to the particular wishes of the testator. Such things are done every day with regard to our educational institutions, then why not apply it to religious instruction? It is a splendid incentive.—*Temple Magazine*.

## The Mission Field.

### MISSIONARY READING CIRCLE.

#### COURSE OF READING.

First Year.	Cloth.	Paper.
1. Crisis of Missions—(Pierson.)	\$1 06	29
2. Armenian Amphitheater.		09
3. Do Not Say.		
4. Our Country.	51	25
5. Life of Sammy Morris.		10
6. Choice Extracts—(Meyer.)		05
		87

These are the books for the first year's reading, and as indicated above, can be had in paper cover for the small sum of 87 cents. The books, together with other literature, such as circulars giving full particulars how and why to organize and read, description of books, etc., can be had by addressing Rev. C. F. Yoder, Warsaw, Ind. Circles should be organized in every congregation.

### SOMETHING ABOUT MADAGASOAR.

Many tribes in Madagascar are slaves to the native rum, which is made from sugar cane.

Throughout Madagascar are no suitable roads. Horses are seldom seen and travelers as well as all freight, are carried by human substitutes for draft animals.

Madagascar is the third largest island in world. It would reach almost from Maine to Florida, meaning nearly one thousand miles in length.

There is in Madagascar a tribe descended from Arab settlers. They still understand the Arabic letters, and have some sacred books in that language, although the language itself is forgotten.

Throughout Madagascar there is a noteworthy absence of large towns. Besides the capital and two or three of the seaports the remainder of the towns are mere villages.

Rice is to the natives what bread is to us. Simply prepared, it forms their chief diet.

In Madagascar Sunday is comparatively observed. No markets have been held on that day for many years. The church bells alone break the Sabbath quiet. Saturday is wash day, that the people may have clean clothes for the Sabbath.

There is an old law in Madagascar forbidding the use of brick or stone in the capital, so that all houses were built of rushes and wood. In 1868, however,

when the Queen became a Christian she abolished this law.

One of the evils of this island that the missionaries have not reached is the selling of slaves. The condition of these slaves has been vastly improved and it is to be hoped that the rapidly growing Christian sentiment will eventually put an end to this relic of barbarism.

Tananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, is strangely situated in a steep hill, so that the houses rise one above the other and each is protected by a perpendicular wall. Heavy rains sometimes loosen these walls, and land slips occur which bring about great destruction of property and oft times of life, as well.

### A FACT.

On a vast plain the 350,000,000 subjects of Queen Victoria are assembled before her throne and on a table near her throne are the five sacred books of the East: the Bible, the Vedas, the Koran, the Tripitakas and the Zend Avesta. Rising from her throne the Queen says: "Let all those who believe in the Divine inspiration of the Vedas take their sacred books and pass out and away." Two hundred millions go out, and 150,000,000 remain. Sadly the Christian Queen again speaks: "Let those who believe in the Koran now leave." Her grief increases as 60,000,000 more go out, and but 90,000,000 remain. Again she speaks, and again there is an exodus of those who believe in the Tripitaka, the sacred book of the Buddhists, and in the Zend Avesta, the Parsee Bible—40,000,000 more. Out of the 350,000,000 only 50,000,000 remain who accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as their Bible; and only a part of these are heart believers in God's Book. This parable shows that the disciples of Jesus still have much to do before it can be said that the glad tidings have been made known to every creature. We need be in no doubt as to which of these five sacred books will ultimately triumph.—*Advance*.

Consecrated patriots will "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," knowing that all things needful to their usefulness and prosperity as individuals or as a nation will then be added unto them.

Only those things can be worth living for that have a value throughout eternity. To build a character with Christ as the great model, which will be a fit dwelling-place for the Holy Spirit, and to prepare for effective service in his cause, are aims worthy of our best endeavor.

Hope is the yeast in the bread of life.

## Our Bible School.

### PRAYER MEETING TOPICS.

#### PSALM LI.

Subject: *David's Penitent Prayer.*

Read II Sam. 11: 1-4 and 12: 1-7.

a. What was the occasion of its composition by David? See heading of the Psalm.

b. Things David prayed for:

- 1 Mercy. v. 1.
  - 2 Transgressions blotted out. v. 1.
  - 3 Iniquity washed out. v. 2.
  - 4 To be cleansed from sin. v. 2.
  - 5 To be purged with hyssop. v. 7.
- Why with hyssop?
- 6 To be washed whiter than snow. v. 7.
  - 7 To be made to hear joy and gladness.
  - 8 For God to hide his face from his sins.
  - 9 For God to blot out all his iniquities.
  - 10 For God to create in him a new heart. Read Ezek. 11: 19 and Mark 7: 21, 22.
  - 11 For God to renew in him a right spirit.
  - 12 For God to not cast him away.
  - 13 For God to not take away his Holy Spirit.
  - 14 For God to restore to him the joy of salvation.
  - 15 For God to uphold him by his free spirit.
  - 16 To be delivered from blood guiltiness.
  - 17 To have his life opened to praise God and tell of his mercy.
  - 18 For God to do good to Zion.
  - 19 For God to build the walls of Jerusalem.

c. Things to be noticed:

- 1 David's ground of appeal to a just God was not his own goodness, but God's loving kindness and tender mercies. v. 1.
  - 2 That David had to be forgiven himself before he could teach sinners the way of salvation. v. 13.
  - 3 That in his prayer David begins with himself and ends with God's people and the nation. Compare vs. 1 and 18.
  - 4 That sacrifice is no substitute for obedience and righteousness. vs. 16, 17, 19. Read I Sam. 22 and Matt. 23: 23.
- d. Some things David promised to do when God had pardoned his sin:
- 1 Sing of God's righteousness. v. 14.
  - 2 Show forth God's praise. v. 15.
  - 3 Teach transgressors God's way. v.